new licenses, identify sensitive/trouble-prone areas/polling stations and compulsory identification of voters.

Fatwas issued by religious institutions

2750. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) what procedures are followed by the jurisdictional courts when Fatwas are issued by the Islamic institutions or even local panchayats in criminal cases at variance with the existing criminal laws;

(b) whether there are any specific guidelines or instructions relating to dealing with such cases or it is left to the discretion of the local courts; and

(c) the steps Government propose to ensure that ends of justice are adequately met particularly in respect of the victims of major crimes perpetrated on them?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ): (a) The procedure to be followed by courts in the criminal cases are set out in the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973 and Fatwas issued by the Islamic institutions are not having any legal backing and they are not valid in the eye of law.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) To meet the ends of justice to the victims, the law enforcing agencies of the Government takes the recourse as mandated under the law.

Administration of Criminal Justice

2751. SHRI AMAR SINGH: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the rate of disposal of criminal cases under Indian Penal Code specially local laws over the last several years has highly dismal;

(b) the steps Government have taken for expeditious disposal of the criminal cases during the last three years; and